IN OTHER WORDS, OUR INVESTIGATION WILL NO LONGER BE CARRIED OUT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

141

BECAUSE THIS RECENT INCIDENT COST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT A NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTER,

THEY'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO CAPTURE THE CULPRIT.

WE AT THE FEDERAL BUREAU WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, MR. SUNG.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO GIVE YOU A HEADS-UP BEFORE THE INVESTIGATION GOES PUBLIC.
I, I'M SURE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED IF YOUR FATHER'S FACE HAD POPPED UP DURING THE CONFERENCE.

MY FATHER WHO WENT MISSING 10 YEARS AGO...
...RETURNED AS A MAGIC BEAST?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
I'M FINE. I JUST FEEL A LITTLE WEAK.

DID HE USE TELEKINESIS?

HIGH-RANKING MAGE HUNTERS CAN ONLY MOVE OBJECTS AT BEST... BUT HE'S ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL.
I THOUGHT ONLY NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTERS COULD WIELD SUCH POWERFUL TELEKINESIS...

NO, THIS MAN IS THE SIXTH NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTER.
I MUST INFORM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE...

...IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT WHERE REPRESENTATIVE GUILDS FROM EACH COUNTRY ARE INVITED TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE HUNTER INDUSTRY.

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF HUNTERS RELEASED THE LIST OF INVITED GUILDS...

U.S.A.	Scavenger Guild	Thom
Mexico	Sicario Guild	Alon
South Korea	Ahjin Guild	Sung
Italy	Ira et Vitae Guild	Fabio

...AND THE AHJIN GUILD WAS SELECTED TO REPRESENT SOUTH KOREA THIS YEAR.

THEIR PARTICIPATION MADE HEADLINES BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

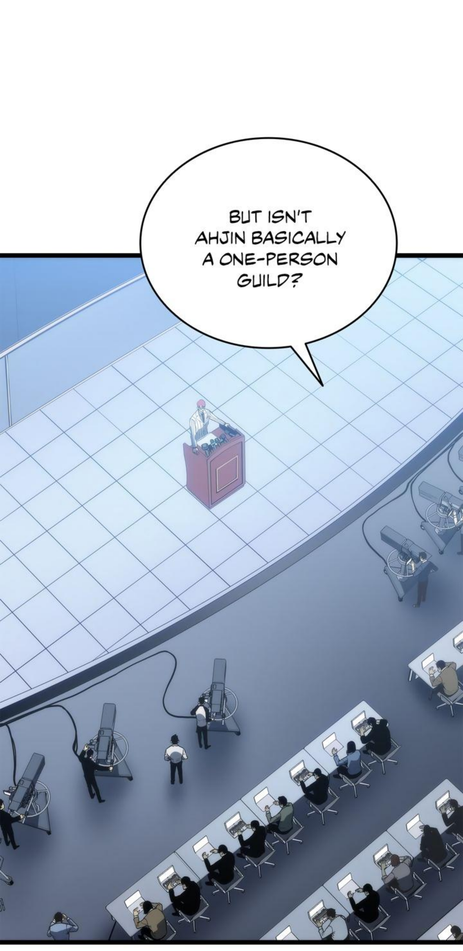
AHJIN'S ONLY TOP-RANKING HUNTER WAS SUNG JINWOO, THE GUILD MASTER,

SO THE FEDERAL BUREAU'S DECISION TO INVITE THEM WAS BASICALLY AN OFFICIAL SEAL OF APPROVAL. THEY HAD RECOGNIZED THAT SUNG JINWOO ALONE...

...WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO RIVAL ALL THE OTHER GUILDS WITH TOP-NOTCH HUNTERS.

EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE AHJIN GUILD WAS INVITED TO REPRESENT SOUTH KOREA AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE INSTEAD OF THE HUNTERS GUILD.
AS THE GUILD MASTER OF THE HUNTERS GUILD, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER, MR. CHOI?
THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF HUNTERS MADE THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
THEY MADE THE "OBVIOUS" CHOICE? NOT "UNDERSTANDABLE"?

YES. I BELIEVE IT WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.

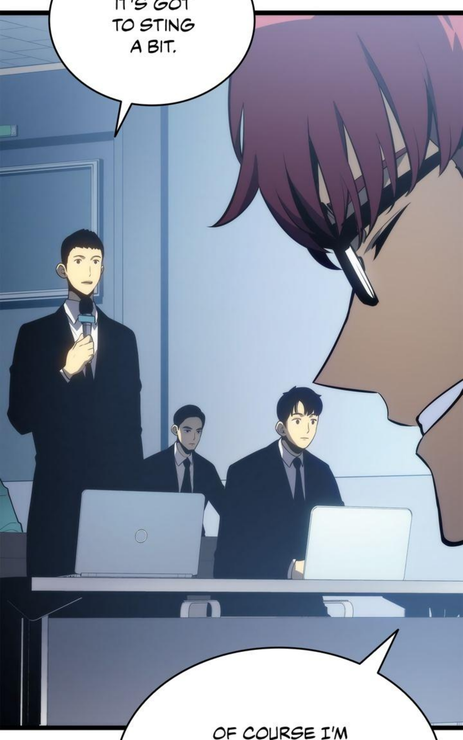

BUT ISN'T AHJIN BASICALLY A ONE-PERSON GUILD?

YES, BUT IN THIS CASE, THAT "ONE PERSON" IS SUNG JINWOO.

IF WE DEFINE A GUILD MEMBER AS SOMEONE WHO BELONGS TO A GUILD AND CAN BE MOBILIZED FOR BATTLE,
THEN SUNG JINWOO ALREADY HAS HUNDREDS OF GUILD MEMBERS.
AS SOMEONE WHO HAS WITNESSED HIS CAPABILITIES FIRSTHAND ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT OCCASIONS, INCLUDING DURING THE JEJU ISLAND INCIDENT...
I BELIEVE THE AHJIN GUILD WOULD GIVE ANY GUILD IN THE WORLD A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY.

STILL,
THE HUNTERS GUILD HAS ALWAYS REPRESENTED SOUTH KOREA AT THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD CONFERENCE.

IT'S GOT TO STING A BIT.



OF COURSE I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR TRIP TO THE STATES FELL THROUGH. I EVEN HAD MY PASSPORT RENEWED.

BUT I FEEL MORE PROUD THAN DISAPPOINTED.

WE NOW HAVE A HUNTER WHO WON'T HESITATE TO TAKE THE FRONT LINES IF WE EVER COME FACE TO FACE WITH A BEAST WE CAN'T HANDLE.

IN FACT, MY GUILD MEMBERS AND I ONLY MADE IT BACK ALIVE BECAUSE OF SUNG JINWOO'S HELP.

SO I'M GENUINELY PROUD HE WAS CHOSEN AS SOUTH KOREA'S REPRESENTATIVE.

SIR! WE SNAGGED THE PERMIT FOR THE GATE THAT SPAWNED IN SUSEO THIS MORNING.

IT'S AN A-RANK GATE, BUT THE MANA LEVELS AREN'T THAT HIGH.

NICE WORK.

DID THE AHJIN GUILD APPLY FOR A PERMIT THIS TIME? OR DID THEY PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY AGAIN?

THEY DIDN'T APPLY. THEY'VE BEEN A LITTLE TOO QUIET LATELY.

IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE SUNG JINWOO GOT BACK FROM

JAPAN, BUT... THAT "DUNGEON DESTROYER" HASN'T SHOWN UP AT ANY GATES YET.

ALL THE MAJOR GUILDS ARE CELEBRATING...

...BUT I'M NOT LIKE BAEK YOONHO FROM THE WHITE TIGER GUILD, OR LIM TAE-GYU FROM THE FIEND GUILD.

AFTER ALL, JUMPING FOR JOY JUST BECAUSE AN APPLE FELL FROM A TREE MAKES US NO DIFFERENT FROM MONKEYS.

BUT NOW THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO COMPETE WITH THE AHJIN GUILD, OUR PROFITS HAVE INCREASED BY 40 PERCENT!

BEFORE HIS RANK REEVALUATION, HE USED TO CLEAR THREE TO FOUR LOW-RANK GATES PER DAY,

AND AFTER BECOMING AN S-RANK, HE EVEN RAIDED GATES THAT HAD SPAWNED IN OTHER GUILDS' DISTRICTS.

THEN JUST RECENTLY, HE FLEW TO JAPAN TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY SHUT DOWN AN S-RANK DUNGEON BREAK. IT'S STRANGE THAT THERE'S BEEN NO MOVEMENT FROM HIM.

SOMEONE FROM CHINA REQUESTED INFORMATION ON SUNG JINWOO, SIR.

INFORMATION? LIKE PERSONAL INFORMATION?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
THEN WHAT?

THEY'VE REQUESTED PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS RELEVANT NEWS ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON MR. SUNG AND HIS RAID RECORDS.
I SEE. WELL, I'M SURE CHINA DIDN'T EXPECT US TO GIVE THEM ACCESS TO A TOP-RANKING HUNTER'S PERSONAL INFORMATION.

BUT WHY ARE THEY SHOWING A SUDDEN INTEREST IN SUNG JINWOO?
WE'VE MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO THEM THAT HE'S NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT OFFERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.
THE REQUEST WASN'T MADE BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, SIR.
IT WAS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL.
AN INDIVIDUAL?
IT SEEMS CHINA'S SEVEN-STAR HUNTER, LIU ZHIGANG, HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST

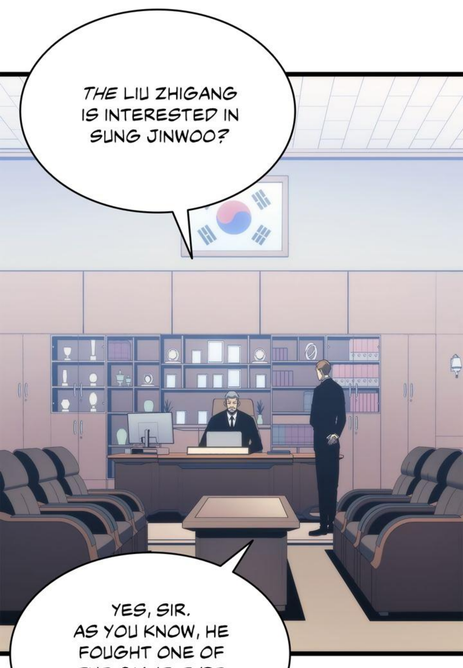
IN SUNG JINWOO.

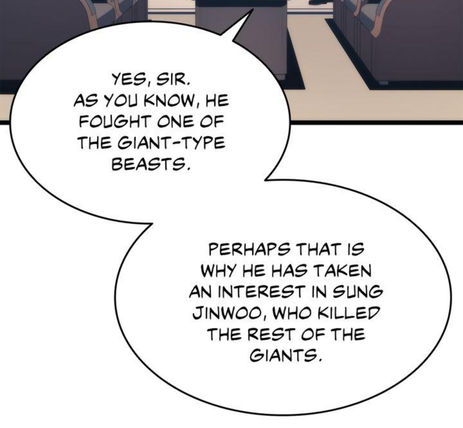
!

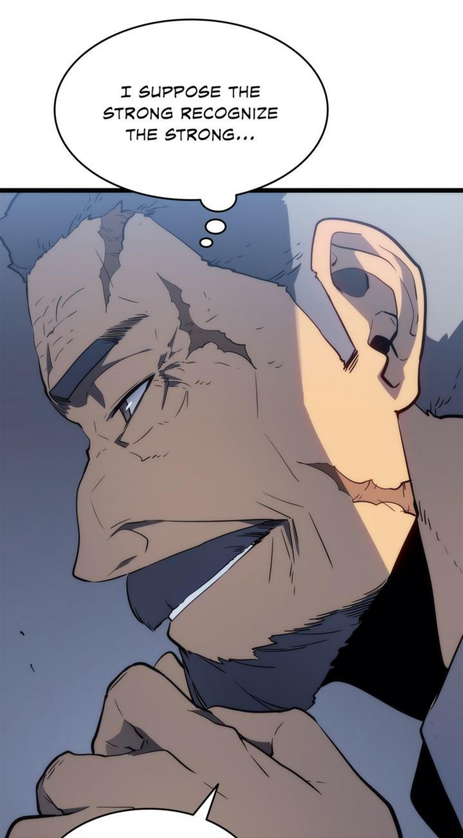
CHINA DOESN'T FOLLOW THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR RANKING HUNTERS. INSTEAD, THEY USE THEIR OWN RANKING SYSTEM.

HUNTERS WITH FIVE STARS ARE CONSIDERED THE HIGHEST RANK, BUT...

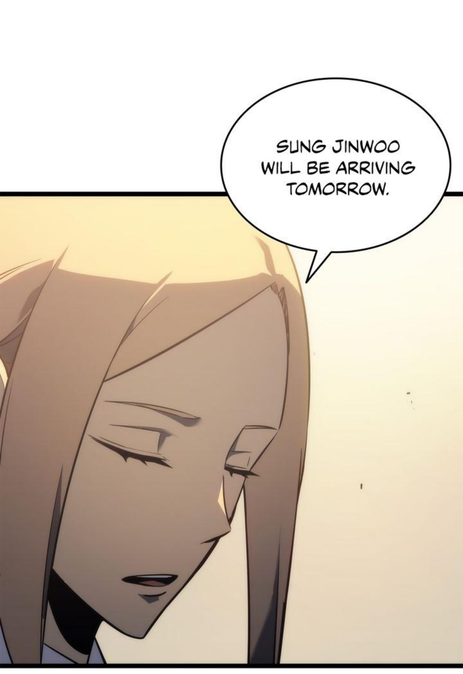
...JUST ONE HUNTER, LIU ZHIGANG, WAS GIVEN A SEVEN-STAR RANK.


THE LIU ZHIGANG IS INTERESTED IN SUNG JINWOO?


YES, SIR. AS YOU KNOW, HE FOUGHT ONE OF THE GIANT-TYPE BEASTS.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY HE HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST IN SUNG JINWOO, WHO KILLED THE REST OF THE GIANTS.

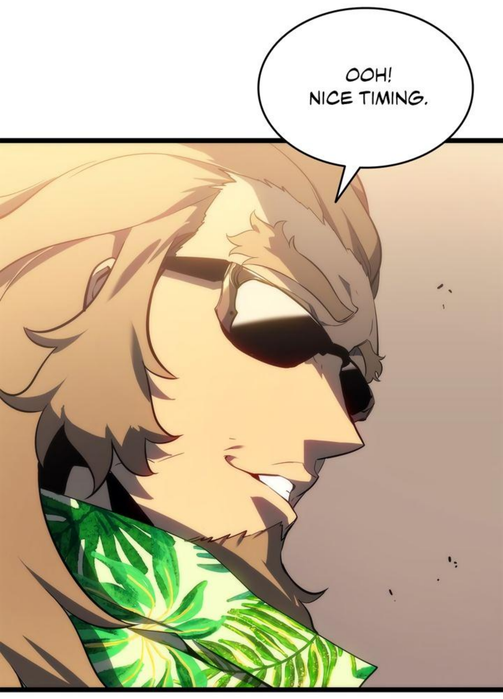

I SUPPOSE THE STRONG RECOGNIZE THE STRONG...

DENY HIS REQUEST.
OR JUST SEND HIM SURFACE-LEVEL INFORMATION.


SUNG JINWOO WILL BE ARRIVING TOMORROW.

ALREADY? TIME SURE FLEW BY.

YOU CALLED FOR ME, SIR?
CLACK

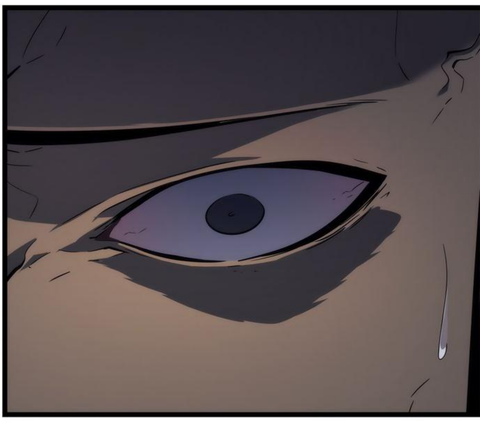

OOH!
NICE TIMING.

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
OKAY.

I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
STEP

DON'T MESS WITH SUNG JINWOO...

...MR. HWANG.



I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN SUNG JINWOO AND YOUR BROTHER.
I'M SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SUSPICIONS AND YOU'RE CURIOUS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WENT DOWN.

BUT...

WHOOSH

I DON'T RECALL GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO SPEAK.

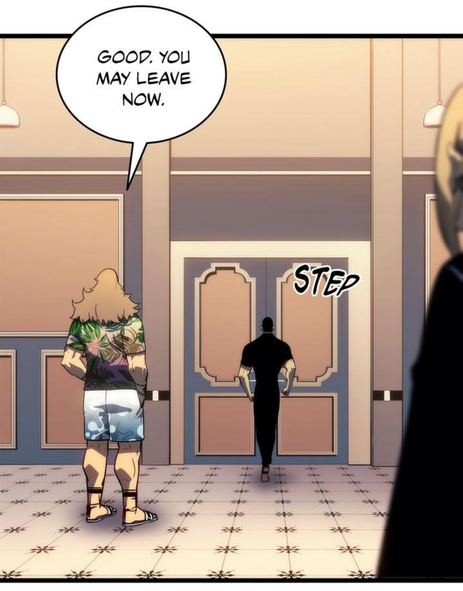
PLEASE JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT...

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN GIVE A THREATENING WARNING TO A HIGH-RANKING HUNTER.
HE SURE IS IMPRESSIVE.
HOWEVER... HWANG DONGSOO IS JUST AS OBSESSIVE AS THOMAS WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING DOWN HIS TARGET.
I REPEAT. DO NOT MESS WITH SUNG JINWOO.

GO TAKE A VACATION AT THE GUILD'S VILLA DURING THE CONFERENCE OR SOMETHING.

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY? WILL YOU COMPLY WITH MY EARNEST REQUEST?
...

MR. HWANG?
...ALL RIGHT.


GOOD. YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
STEP

STEP
STEP

DO YOU THINK HE'LL LISTEN?

NO, HE'S NOT GOING TO LET GO THAT EASILY.

KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON MR. HWANG UNTIL SUNG JINWOO LEAVES THE STATES, LAURA.

WILL HE... ACCEPT THAT?

WELL... I'M SURE HE'D RATHER BE A BIT FRUSTRATED THAN DEAD.

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C WEBTOON BiZ

REDICE STUDIO

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